



Office of Command Counsel Newsletter

August 2003, Volume 03-04

Trio Retire from Command Counsel-- Saunders, Klatsky and Brognano

On August 3, three experienced and valuable members of the Office of Command Counsel took the giant step into retirement. **Holly Saunders, Nick Brognano,** and **Steve Klatsky** depart the AMC Legal community leaving a deep and lasting impression on all those with whom they worked for all these many years.

Holly Saunders worked in the Legal Office for 23 years, the last five as the Executive Officer, providing exceptional service to all in the AMC career program. As the office of Command Counsel leaped into the era of computers, Holly became the leader in the introduction of the technology that improved the efficiency of all. Among her most important endeavors, Holly was the single point person for the administration of the annual AMC Continuing Legal Education Program.

Steve Klatsky began work in the Office of Command Counsel on December 19, 1974, when he was a JAG Captain, sponsored by CPT (soon to be Command Coun-

sel) Ed Korte. Steve was the lead AMC labor counselor when that program accelerated after the Civil Service Reform Act of 1978; started the AMC Labor Counselor Newsletter long ago, which evolved to the AMC Command Counsel Newsletter on the Web in 1997; and was the chair and "emcee" of the AMC CLE for the last five years. He was a leader in the field of Alternative Dispute Resolution.

Nick Brognano came to HQ AMC in 2001 as Fiscal Law attorney, bringing his legal talent, unique sense of humor, and more to a very difficult and complex area of the law. Prior to that, he worked for AMC as a contracts attorney at Vint Hill Farms Station. Nick also worked for several other DOD component legal organizations, beginning his career with the Air Force in his hometown of Rome, New York.

Acting Command Counsel **Kathi Szymanski** presided over an emotional retirement ceremony on August 1, as this transition took place. "These three people

have been with the Office of Command Counsel for some 55 years. When you control the outcome of the CLE, write the Newsletter, interpret the Anti-Deficiency Act, and apply the AMC Attorney Career Program to and for a Legal community of 250, you do important work. Holly, Nick and Steve have provided legal services, guidance, and representation that will be impossible to replace and duplicate. Personally, I want to thank each of you for the dedication, work ethic and the desire to work as a team. AMC thanks you".

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From Holly Saunders

As the final days of my 34 year Federal Service career for the Army are coming to a close I want each of you to know how grateful I am to have served my country by working with the U.S. Army Materiel Command for 25 years, 23 of those years in the HQ AMC legal office. I am thankful for the opportunities I have had and the knowledge that I have accrued because of those opportunities. It has been a pleasure and an honor to work with the AMC legal community.

One of the attorneys wrote me a note this morning saying "Love is never having to say Goodbye" so I will not say Goodbye to you - only that I will truly miss each of you, My husband has been patiently waiting for me to retire so that we can hit the road and travel throughout the USA - we will soon be doing that very thing. Who knows where our paths may cross again. Keep serving our country well, God bless you all and God bless our great country.

Holly

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Contributions are encouraged. Please send them electronically as a Microsoft® Word® file to jkranzberg@hqamc.army.mil

Letters to the Editor are also encouraged. Length must be no longer than 250 words. All submissions may be edited for clarity and length.

From Steve Klatsky

On October 8, 1972 I signed in at the orderly room of the Military Police Company at Sierra Army Depot.

I looked outside at the rugged Sierra Nevada Mountains and wondered what I was doing. I had never been west of Buffalo.

I honestly did not realize I was beginning a career. I've spent almost 31 years with the Army Materiel Command as an MP Officer, JAG, and civilian attorney.

As I retire I am so grateful for these years. So many of you in the HQs and in the field legal offices were important to me, especially the veteran labor counselors as

we constructed the AMC labor counselor program from the beginning. It is remarkable how many AMC employment law attorneys have over 20 years experience with AMC. The Command remains lucky for your service.

"Life is what happens to you while you're making other plans", and although I am not sure I had a plan, no plan could have worked out better.

I am fortunate that I can retire at 55, with my three daughters all grown and in careers of their own. A career in government service permitted me to balance my professional goals, my life as a

father, with a few (or more than a few) side trips to ballparks all over the country. A better combination for me could never exist.

Although I have no specific plans I'd like to do some teaching, mediation and ADR related work, hide out in a bookstore or library. And, there are so many more ballparks left to visit.

I have gone to countless luncheons for those leaving AMC and many said they had mixed emotions. I never understood what that meant until recently. I truly know the feeling today.

From Nick Brognano

I've told this story before but not everyone has heard it. It's a true story about my Grandfather who left Italy many years ago as a young boy to come to America.

He left his family and knew he would never see them again, yet he came here. When he was alive I recall his 10 children offering to pay all expenses for him to be able to visit the "old country."

When I was a young boy, I remember finding his response humorous when in all seriousness he would bang the table with his index finger and say to them "why would I want to go back there? There's nothing but rocks back there. This is the country, America."

I often think of my honorable granddad and those words. Today those words have special meaning to me. My 31 years as a government attorney will end this week and I am most grateful for having been given the opportunity to serve in that capacity.

The people I have met along the way have been the highest reward of my professional career.

Names like Vic Ferlise, Ed Korte, Nick Femino and Kathi Szymanski are names all of us in the command recognize. I have been extremely fortunate and even blessed to have worked with each of them. Each one has helped me along the way

and I want to thank them. There are of course, many others I appreciate and value just as much but space prevents listing all of their names.

Someday you too will be asked to write a goodbye letter like this. While that day may be far off it will eventually arrive and when it does you will find yourself a little older.

Writing your goodbyes will have a sobering effect much like those unforgotten words my grand father said so many years ago but today heard by a much older man.

Goodbye to each of you. Thanks for your patience, professionalism and daily support in so many ways.

Newsletter Index-- Updated

Once again, thanks to CECOM Fort Belvoir and the Legal office led by **John Metcalf**, we include a comprehensive Newsletter Index.

The Index is in two parts.

The first part is entitled "Topic and Alphabetical Title of Article as of June 2003".

The second part is entitled "Listed by Topic and Most recent Article, as of June 2003".

Again, many thanks to CECOM-Ft. Belvoir for this work.

Enclosures 1 and 2.

Revised AMC Attorney Career Program Regulation... Published

The newly revised AMC-R 690-2, the AMC Attorney Career Program regulation has been published.

It is available at [http://www.amc.army.mil/amc/ci/pubs/r690 2.pdf](http://www.amc.army.mil/amc/ci/pubs/r690%20.pdf).

The retirement of Steve Klatsky and Holly Saunders leads to a new Newsletter Team.

WebMaster Josh Kranzberg will play a vital role, as will Linda Mills.

Again, we can't do it without your help and contributions.

Keep those cards and letters coming.

Faces In The Firm

Hello

ARL

Effective 20 April 2003, **Stephen M. Bloor**, assumed the position as the new Patent Counsel for the Army Research Laboratory, Office of Chief Counsel, Intellectual Property Law Branch. Mr. Bloor left the National Security Agency, Columbia, MD, to join the Office of Chief Counsel.

AMCOM

Welcome to **CPT Frank B. Ulmer** assigned to the JAG Office in April, coming from JAG Basic Course, and was promoted to CPT in May. **CPT Chris Plaisted** assigned to the JAG Office arrived in July, coming from 111 Corps, Fort Hood, Texas. **CPT Kathleen Kelly** assigned to the JAG Office arrived in July, coming from 25th Infantry Division, Fort Schafter Hawaii.

CECOM

The CECOM Legal Office, Fort Belvoir, VA, welcomes **William Anderson**. Will is a Patent Attorney and returns to CECOM from the Office of the General Counsel, HQ, AF. Will previously worked in the CECOM Legal Office from 1987 to 1997.

August 2003

HQ AMC

MAJ Duc Nguyen comes to us from the office of the US Army Trial Defense at Fort Carson, CO. He will be working in Business Law.

CPT Tami Dillahunt comes to us from the U.S. Army Legal Services Agency, Defense Appellate Division in Arlington, VA. She will be joining the Protest Litigation group.

MAJ Walter Dukes last served at the CECOM Legal Office at Ft. Monmouth, NJ. He will be working in General Law

Cindy A. Kelson, who last worked at Walter Reed Hospital joined the General Law Division on July 28.

Goodbye

AMCOM

CPT Douglas Moore, who deployed to Kosovo and returned, has now departed for Germany. **SSG Keith Willard** was deployed in March. **CPT Erick Ottoson** returned from deployment to the Horn of Africa (and aboard the Mount Whitney) as part of a Joint Task Force in Support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He departs this month for duty at the Space and Missile Defense Command. **Mr. Freddie Bush** retired in March 2003 after 39+ years of government service.

CECOM

John Holford, Patent Advisor, CECOM Legal Office, Fort Belvoir, VA, announced his retirement effective 31 July 2003. John has earned a well-deserved retirement after 48 years of outstanding Federal service.

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